



Summary of Recreational Groundfish Regulations for 2021

SOUTHERN Management Area

Ocean waters between 34°27' N. latitude (Point Conception) and the U.S.-Mexico Border,
Excluding the Cowcod Conservation Areas³



Includes a portion of Santa Barbara County, and all of Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties

Note: Shaded text denotes regulations that have changed for 2021. Before engaging in ocean sportfishing for groundfish and associated species, please review one of the resources listed in Footnote 1 to receive the most up-to-date regulations.

Species ¹	Time Period ^{1, 2, 3, 4}	Depth Limit ^{1, 2, 3, 4}	Daily Bag Limit ¹	Min. Size Limit ^{1, 5, 6}
RCG Complex (includes all species of Rockfishes , Cabazon and Greenlings , Sections 1.91 and 28.55, 28.28, and 28.29)	Boat-based Anglers²: Open: Mar 1–Dec 31 Closed: Jan 1–Feb 28 Divers, Shore-based Anglers²: Open year-round	Take is prohibited seaward of the 100 fathom (600 feet) Rockfish Conservation Area boundary line, which is a series of connected waypoints defined in Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart C). SEE EXCEPTION AT END OF TABLE	10 fish in combination per person EXCEPT: Vermilion rockfish: 5 fish per person	See individual species and groups below: Cabazon: 15" total length Kelp and/or rock greenlings: 12" total length
THESE ROCKFISHES MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED IN CALIFORNIA: Bronzespotted Rockfish, Cowcod and Yelloweye Rockfish (Section 28.55) FISHING IS CLOSED year-round, at all depths NO RETENTION at any time (zero fish per person)				
Lingcod (Section 28.27)	Same as RCG Complex, above		2 fish per person	22" total length
Ocean Whitefish (Section 28.58)	Same as RCG Complex, above		10 fish per person	No size limit
California Sheephead (Section 28.26)	Same as RCG Complex, above		5 fish per person	12" total length
California Scorpionfish (Section 28.54)	Open year-round	Same as RCG Complex, above	5 fish per person	10" total length
Leopard Shark⁷ (Section 28.56)	All Anglers within Newport Bay, Alamitos Bay, San Diego Bay, and Mission Bay¹: Open year-round All Anglers outside of the above-mentioned bays: Same as RCG Complex, above Divers, Shore-based Anglers²: Open year-round	All Anglers within Newport Bay, Alamitos Bay, San Diego Bay, and Mission Bay¹: No depth limit All Anglers outside of the above-mentioned bays: Same as RCG Complex, above Divers, Shore-based Anglers²: Same as RCG Complex, above	3 fish per person	36" total length

Species¹	Time Period^{1, 2, 3, 4}	Depth Limit^{1, 2, 3, 4}	Daily Bag Limit¹	Min. Size Limit^{1, 5, 6}
Pacific Sanddabs and "Other Flatfish"⁴ (Section 28.48)	Open year-round	No depth limit	Pacific sanddab: No limit All "Other Flatfish" ⁴ : 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish total in combination, per Section 27.60(a)	No size limit
Petrale Sole and Starry Flounder (Section 28.47)	Open year-round	No depth limit	No limit	No size limit
Other Federal Groundfish (Section 28.49)	Same as RCG Complex above		Soupfish shark: 1 fish per person All Other Federal Groundfish: 10 fish of each species, limit 20 fish total in combination, per Section 27.60(a)	No size limit

1. Subject to in-season change. Call the Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline at **(831) 649-2801**, visit the Marine Region Web site at **www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/Marine**, send an e-mail to **AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov**, or call your nearest CDFW office for the latest information.

Some marine protected areas (MPAs) restrict or prohibit sport fishing within MPAs. Check the current ocean sport fishing regulations booklet or the CDFW website at **[www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network/ Southern-California](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network/Southern-California)**, send an e-mail to **AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov**, or call your nearest CDFW office for more information.

2. Divers and shore-based anglers are exempt from season and depth restrictions affecting the RCG complex and other federally managed groundfish. However, when spear fishing during a boat-based closure, only spear fishing gear is allowed aboard any vessel or watercraft. Also, when angling from shore during a boat-based closure, no vessel or watercraft may be used to assist in taking or possessing species included in this table. The following definitions describe boat-based and shore-based anglers, and divers:

- Boat-based anglers are fishermen that fish from boats or vessels of any size or any other type of floating object, including kayaks and float tubes.
- Shore-based anglers are fishermen that fish from beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks and other manmade structures connected to the shore.
- Divers are spear fishermen entering the water either from the shore or from a boat or other floating object.

3. See Section 27.50 for further information on fishing regulations in the Cowcod Conservation Areas.

4. "Other Flatfish" are described in Section 1.91(a)(10) including only butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

5. See regulations for information on gear restrictions (Sections 28.65, 28.70, 28.90, 28.91, and 28.95) and fillet lengths (Section 27.65).

6. Total length is the longest straight-line measurement from the tip of the head with the mouth closed to the end of the longest lobe of the tail (Section 1.62). A measurement method illustration is available in the current Ocean Sport Fishing Regulations booklet.

7. The sport fishery for leopard shark inside Newport Bay, Alamitos Bay, Mission Bay, and San Diego Bay is exempt from season restrictions that affect other federally managed groundfish (Section 28.56(a)(5)).

EXCEPTION: During the open season, groundfish may be possessed in closed areas and in water depths closed to fishing only aboard vessels in transit with no fishing gear in the water (Section 27.20(b)).

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